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IV

A CHRISTMAS TREE

By IRENE R. FOOTE, R.N.
District Nurse, Fairfield, Maine

THE first Christmas tree for poor children ever prepared by social workers in Waterville, Maine, was given at the Central Maine Dispensary for the Relief and Control of Tuberculosis, on December 23, 1910, at 3 P.M.

About 30 children, all tubercular, had been invited, but at 1 P.M. they commenced to arrive, and by 3 P.M. fully fifty children, including brothers and sisters of the others, had come, expecting to be remembered by Santa Claus. With the aid of some members of the Woman's Club, a most beautiful tree had been arranged, with presents of clothing and a toy for each one.

A local minister took the part of Santa, to the great delight of the children. After each child had been called one, two, or three times, and each one had "just what he wanted," they were marched to another room and served with ice cream and cake, by some of the younger society girls of the city. Everyone was most happy, the older women and the girls for the pleasure they had given by assisting the nurse in arranging the party, and the children in receiving so many needed articles and such a pleasing entertainment.

V

THE Fourteenth Annual Report of the Visiting Nurse Association of Omaha, Nebraska, certainly reflects great credit on the two visiting nurses, Nancy Dorsey, R.N., Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton, Pa., and Blanche Kelly, R.N., Methodist Hospital, Omaha.

During the year the Association has assumed the home care of the industrial policy holders for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; has managed a most successful out-door baby camp; and, with this additional work, has been able to care for 934 patients, making in all 5039 visits. The following quotation from the report of the superintendent sums up the work better than figures:

Who can tell from figures what the association really stands for? A certain number of visits; but what does that tell of the women cared for in their hour of trial; of babies bathed daily and kept fresh and sweet with stores from our linen closet; of chronic invalids, whose brightest spot in the whole week is the nurse's visit?

Visiting nurses the world over feel that their work is very inadequately represented by figures and sometimes long for an opportunity to make the figures themselves speak and tell how much time and effort lie behind them.

The out-door baby camp had fourteen cribs in all, but so many babies that Miss Dorsey had four assistants. In addition to the babies, visitors at the camp averaged thirty a day, and in spite of the fact that the summer was an unusual one, and the camp was open for all sorts of little patients, only three deaths took place. In all, the nurses cared for thirty babies during the eight weeks.

The following paragraph tells its own story:

Mothers brought their babies all the way from Fort Omaha and Benson to spend half a day under the trees and have the nurses tell them how to keep them well during the heat. They watched with interest everything the nurses did, from bathing the babies on a rebuilt kitchen table, to the preparing of their food, caring for their bottles, etc. Mothers whose babies were left with us would come to visit for hours at a time, and bring neighboring women with their little families, and the nurses answered question after question and talked cleanliness of the body and of the home, outside and in; of the danger from flies, of the way the babies should be fed and dressed when they were well, to keep them so, and discussed all the problems of every-day living.

VI

THE Hartford Visiting Nurse Association has found it necessary to add a fifth nurse to its staff, and is fortunate in securing Celia Goldberg, Mt. Sinai Hospital, 1911. Miss Goldberg's knowledge of Yiddish makes her especially valuable in the dispensary, and in the social work of the Association.

Dr. Edward A. Deming is giving a First Aid talk to the boys' club of the Gurdon Russell Settlement House, Hartford, Conn.

The annual meeting of the District Nurse Association of Derby, Ansonia and Shelton, was held February 10, at Library Hall, Derby. This association was established February 1, 1904, and is governed by a board of lady managers from the three cities. A loan closet is provided, and in case of severe illness, the association provides special nurses or attendants. Only one nurse is employed, and she makes visits over a very large territory; yet notwithstanding the great distances travelled, she made 2224 calls during the year, and also assisted the Medical Inspector in the schools, for three months. As usual, the number of calls gives very little idea of the work done by this asso-

ciation. The nurse not only cares for the sick, but in needy cases, she furnishes special aid and does the work of Visiting Nurse and Social Worker. Jennie B. Scrimgeour, R.N., of Grace Hospital, New Haven, is in charge of the work. The next annual meeting of the Connecticut Visiting Nurse Society will be held in Derby.

VII

SOCIAL SERVICE WORK IN PHILADELPHIA

THE Training School for Social Work was opened in October, 1910, under the direction of William O. Easton and has about forty pupils enrolled. Five hospitals have a social service department, and five others will soon have.

At the Presbyterian Hospital, Miss Hosteller, a graduate from that training school, began the work amongst the patients of the tuberculosis dispensary three years ago. In December, 1910, the work was made general in the dispensaries. Pupil nurses, if they desire, can take a two months' course, working with Miss Hosteller from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., three days each week. The Ladies' Aid Society of the hospital provides the means to carry on the work.

One fine feature of the work is the children's tuberculosis class, every other Saturday afternoon. This is composed of children who have been exposed to contagion in their homes. A physician talks to them about food, fresh air, the value of open windows, and on other subjects. On Wednesdays, there is a class for adults.

At the Pennsylvania, the work was organized under a committee of three members of the Board of Managers, Mrs. Megee, who has had wide experience in social service work, is in charge. She has one assistant, half time, and one volunteer visitor. The work here is principally with the ward patients. So far, the money has been furnished by private contributions.

Phipps Institute has three social workers who take the students of the University of Pennsylvania with them into the homes to study conditions. Mr. Phipps has provided the money for a certain length of time.

At St. Christopher's Children's Hospital, the work was begun in October, 1909, by Miss Nagle, a graduate of the training school of the University Hospital. The work is principally with the dispensary patients. It is carried on by the Board of Lady Visitors.